Sojourners Here

WE ARE SOJOURNERS HERE.

1 Peter 1:17 Pass the time of your sojourneying here with fear.

At so solemn a time as the ending of the year you must pardon my seeing the rediculousness of our situation.

Before our modern day of telefones, telegraph, railroads and automobiles, flyingmachines, and radio people seldom, and most of them never, traveled more than 15 miles from home, in their whole lives. Yet, in their churches they were always singing about their being pilgrims traveling from afar to a land beyond the skys in the distant eternity. Claiming to be travelers while they sat in one place and never moved hardly in a whole life-time. I had to go to an old hymnal published way back in the 80's before I could find the old song,

I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger;
I can tarry, I can tarry but a night;
Do not detain me, for I am going
To where the fountains are ever flowing.
I'm a pilgrim, and I'm a stranger,
I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.

But our modern situation appears to me to be about as laughable, at least it would if it were not so tragic. Today we surely are on the go. The poorest family has a flivver and the average person travels at least a mile a day. The ones who do not travel at all are the rare exceptions to the rule.

Some in Vacaville who have circled the globe.
Many who have crossed the contenant a number of time
Still more who have gone mileage enough in their autos to encircle the globe mo e than once.
Newspapers, periodicals, books and radio keep us informed about the whole world in a manner that would make our forefathers stagger.

Yes, we moderns are keyed up to travel fast. One of the great principles of modern efficiency is dispatch. And yet we moderns are most reluctant about admitting that our liv lives are subject to time. We think that we have conquered so many of the natural elements and forces that Father Time is also chained and under command to do our bidding. But there are two things that man can never conquer as he has the other natural faces, namely, Time and the subjection of earthly existance to change and decay.

No amount of rouge, jazz, joy-riding and high-stepping, and no amount of mental denial(or mental lying as you may choose to call it) can stop the days from flyin by or the nights from from twinkling their stars. However

2. you may kid yourself, the fact remains that we are growing older, that we are traveling rapidly thru our few remaining years and that we will soon cross the threshold.

Well may the ~~wor~~ modern world take to heart the message of our text-Pass the time of your sojourneying here with fear. And surely we Xns should be able to appreciate this message and profit by it.

I. Consider, first some thots connected with the fact that we are but sojourners here.

1. A sojourner is absent from his native land. It was thus with Abraham, while in Ur and while in Egypt Canaan was his real home. Likewise Earth is not the home of us Xns. Here we are but stragners and sonourners. Heaven is our home.

2. The kindred of a sojourner are in his homeland. Those who are with him are but fellow-travelers.

"There are the good and blest,
Those that I love most and best,
And there I, too, shall rest:
Heaven is my home."

3. The sojourner has no inheritance in the land in which he tarries. Nothing earthly can be inherited. We can take nothing earthly with us when we leave this country. Then, why should the Xn fix his affections on earthly things We hold our wealth, our properties and our personal things only in trust. They are apt to be taken from us most any time.

Why, also, should we Xns fix our affections on the earthliness of our loved ones? For their earthliness, like our own is subject to change and decay. What suffering we would save ourselves if we could but grasp this one thot.

4. The sojourner's pilgrimage is short and fleeting. We have our work to do here, our journey to run, our purpose to accomplish, but the end soon comes. Our pilgrimage soon draws to a close.

II. Consider, secondly, some duties we owe in view of the fact that we are but sojourners.

1. "Fear". Not slavish fear, not being afraid. But reverential fear, a reverent respect for God and His Law and Order. A reverent respect for the laws which govern our earthly being. A reverent respect for the limited time at our disposal. A reverent respect for our health and

2. The duty of haste. Make haste for the night cometh. The king's business requireth haste.

I am a stranger here, within a foreign land;
My home is far away, upon a golden strand;
Ambassador to be of realms beyond the sea,
I'm here on business for my King.
This is the message that I bring,
A message angels fain would sing;
"O be ye reconciled," thus saith my Lord and King,
"Oh, be ye reconciled to God."

3. The duty of contentment.
A traveler does not expect to find at an inn all the comforts of a home, nor does he expect to take with him his whole house of possessions. Let us not compla in of the few hardships we are dompelled to endure whi while we travel along. But let us learn, in whatever state we find ourselves, to be content.

4. Faithfulness to opportunities. Let us say, "I expect th thru this life but once; I shall not pass this way agai if, therefore, there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to my fellow beings, let me do it n now; let me not defer or neglect it; for I shall not pas this way again.". Mak the most of your lofe along the way.

5. Hopefulness. It is a journeying torwards Home. It is a sailing towards the haven. Cultivate Other-worldliness. Its spirit is the essence of true hopefulness.

Ever remember that you are but a sojourner here; that your home is elsewhere, and that while here it is up to you to perform the duties of a sojourner, yea, it is your privelege, a gift from God full of hope and promise.